

Make ‘n Take

Name of Make ‘n Take: **Déne Life Through the Seasons – Before and After the Indian Act**

Theme & Topic: **The Indian Act of 1876 was Not Part of Treaty – First Nations’ Traditional Teachings and Languages are Suppressed**

Names of Teachers: Joëlle Josie

Name of School: St. Luke, Regina Catholic Schools

Grade: Four

Date: April 7, 2009

Procedure:

1. Read “Déne Life Then and Now” from *Building Community* p. 44-45, Collection 4 (Prentice Hall Ginn).
2. On a map show where Déne communities lived in Saskatchewan. Explain about the effects the land, weather (elements), seasons had on the people. I.e. Athabasca Basin, long winters, show pictures of the animals that share the land with the Déne peoples.
3. Explain how survival is one of the most important factors of the Déne way of life. In order to survive, people have to be respectful to the land, animals and the spirit world. Explain that the wolf is their spiritual animal.
4. Students research about the wolf. The wolf’s food, shelter, hunting methods and any other interesting facts.
5. The Déne believe their culture is unique because the Creator gave them a unique language. Learn “Jesus Loves Me” in Déne.
6. Déne live in Northern Canada. The Creator gave them vast territory to protect and the land for provisions for life.

7. Men made canoes and snowshoes out of birch bark. Women made baskets, moccasins and leather mitts. Make baskets. Ask children to do birch bark biting art.
8. Houses were made from logs with moss as insulation. Make log homes using moss from a craft store and Popsicle sticks painted like logs. Roofs could be branches collected by the students, covered with Plasticene modeling clay (grey) and topped with grass collected by the student.
9. The Déne used to travel with the game. They moved by horse, foot or dog teams. They moved each season. In winter they lived in their log home. In April they went to spring camp. In summer they moved. In fall they moved to a good fishing lake, where there was an abundance of berries.
10. Make blueberry muffins.
11. Students then learn about the Indian Act of 1876. Use handout (Appendix K) and make a comparison of life before and after.
12. Do lesson on Pass & Permit Samples p. 42 of A Treaty Resource Guide for Grade 4.
13. Do lesson on Residential School. Watch video about Residential School. Read Boarding School Life fromand they told their stories.
14. Talk about Treaty #10. Show Appendix A.
15. Read "Byron through the Seasons", p. 40-41 of Collections 4 – Building Community. Talk about how the past and present combine.